

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0871

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, WMO

SUBJ: GENEVA GROUP FOR WMO

1. MEMBERS OF SEVERAL OTHER GENEVA GROUP MISSIONS IN GENEVA HAVE SUGGESTED TO MISOFFS THAT A GENEVA GROUP MEETING ON WMO MIGHT BE HELD. SUGGESTIONS APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TOWARD WMO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHICH IS NOW MEETING. GG MEETING WAS NOT CALLED BECAUSE THERE IS NO GENEVA GROUP (WMO) FORMALLY ESTABLISHED.

2. THE GENEVA GROUP MEETING ON 19 JUNE WILL CONSIDER THE WHO ALTERNATIVE TO SAFPBA, BUT THE AGENDA INCLUDES ANY OTHER BUSINESS TYPE ITEM. IT OCCURS TO US THAT IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE AT THAT TIME TO PROPOSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GENEVA GROUP (WMO).

3. INDICATIONS FOR A GENEVA GROUP (WMO) ARE:

A. AS GENEVA BASED ORGANIZATION, WMO HAS PROBLEMS IN COMMON WITH OTHER AGENCIES, SUCH AS EXCHANGE FLUCTUATIONS, IDENTIFICATION OF INFLATION RATE, G-LEVEL SALARIES, ETC. CONSISTENT APPROACH BY US ON COMMON PROBLEMS TENDS TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN DIFFERENT POSITIONS IN DIFFERENT AGENCIES. A GENEVA GROUP (WMO)

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COULD ENCHANCE COMMON APPROACHES.

B. WMO IS CURRENTLY UNDER PRESSURE TO INCREASE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVISIONS IN REGULAR BUDGET. UNDER NEW UNDP PROCEDURES, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MAY ASSIGN LOW PRIORITY TO WMO AREAS OF CONCERN, AND PRESSURES ON REGULAR BUDGET CAN BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE. US POSITION

OF OPPOSING INCREASES IN REGULAR BUDGET FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WILL MEET STRONG RESISTANCE AND GENEVA GROUP SUPPORT WILL BE ESSENTIAL. LAST CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING SUPPORTED US POSITION BUT APPLICATION IN PARTICULAR AGENCY CAN BE BEST MANAGED IF THERE IS A SPECIFIC GROUP FOR THAT AGENCY.

C. SINCE US IS NO LONGER IN GENEVA GROUP (ILO), GENEVA GROUP (WHO) IS THE ONLY GENEVA-BASED LOCAL GROUP IN WHICH US CO-CHAIRMAN PARTICIPATES. GENEVA GROUP (WMO) WOULD AFFORD OPPORTUNITY TO BOLSTER LEADERSHIP ROLE.

4. WHILE US DELEGATION TO PRESENT WMO MEETING RECALLS OCCASIONAL AD HOC GATHERINGS OF GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS IN THE PAST ON WMO MATTERS, NOW WOULD SEEM TO BE GOOD TIME TO SUGGEST FORMALIZATION OF A SEPARATE GROUP FOR WMO SINCE EIGHTH CONGRESS (QUADRENNIAL) MEETS NEXT YEAR.

5. IF DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT US CO-CHAIRMAN SHOULD PROPOSE ESTABLISHMENT OF GENEVA GROUP (WMO), REQUEST APPROVAL FOR RECEIPT BY MORNING OF 19 JUNE, ALONG WITH ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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